

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 04311 251424Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
USIE-00 ERDA-05 ERDE-00 NRC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OES-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00
EB-08 COME-00 IO-13 EUR-12 EA-07 /114 W
-----251510Z 102434 /41

O 251312Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2160

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 4311

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IN

SUBJECT: MORARJI DESAI'S PRESSCONFERENCE: NUCLEAR POWER AND
FOREIGN POLICY

1. WE HAVE DELAYED REPORTING MORARJI DESAI'S MARCH 24 PRESS
CONFERENCE PENDING RECEIPT OF TRANSCRIPT, BUT OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT
AT COB IS STILL UNAVAILABLE. THEREFORE, WE ARE SUBMITTING FOLLOWING
SUMMARY OF DESAI'S REMARKS ON NUCLEAR AND FOREIGN POLICY BASED
UPON PRESS REPORTS, AND WILL PROVIDE FURTHER REPORTS AS NECESSARY
AFTER CHECKING OFFICIAL TEXT TOMORROW.

2. NUCLEAR POLICY. ASKED ABOUT NUCLEAR POLICY, DESAI SAID,
"WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN ATOMIC WEAPONS AT ALL. I DONT KNOW IF
NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS ARE NECESSARY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSE. IF NOT,
THEY SHOULD NOT BE DONE".

3. INDIAN OCEAN. ASKED BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT IF INDIA'S
POLICY ON THE INDIAN OCEAN HAD NOT BEEN BIASED AGAINST THE UNITED
STATES AND HAD PAID INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVI-
TIES, DESAI SAID "TWO WRONGS DO NOT MAKE ONE RIGHT. THE UNITED
STATES SHOULD ALSO REALIZE THAT IT SHOULD NOT HAVE ITS ACTIVI-
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TIES HERE. WE SHOULD ALSO SEE THAT THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD NOT
HAVE ITS ACTIVITIES. THERE SHOULD BE EQUAL TREATMENT FOR BOTH".
DESAI ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE COULD NOT SAY WHAT THE ACTUAL
POSITION WAS NOW BECAUSE HE HAD NOT STUDIED THE ISSUE.

4. NON-ALIGNMENT AND THE INDO-SOVIET TREATY. DESAI SAID HIS GOVT
WOULD FOLLOW A POLICY OF "PROPER NON-ALIGNMENT", WITH NO SUSPICION

OF ANY ALLIANCE WITH ANYBODY. "OUR RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES WILL BE CORDIAL AND GOOD PROVIDED THEY RECIPROCATE. WE WILL NOT ALLOW OUR RELATIONS WITH ONE COUNTRY TO COME IN THE WAY OF RELATIONS WITH ANOTHER COUNTRY". REGARDING THE INDO-SOVIET TREATY, DESAI SAID THAT IF IT INVOLVES ANY WANT OF FRIENDSHIP WITH OTHERS, IT MUST BE CHANGED. "AT LEAST WE WOULD NOT ACT UPON IT IN THAT MANNER". THE NEW GOVT WOULD NOT DISOWN WHAT HAD BEEN DONE BY THE PREVIOUS GOVT. "IT IS LEFT TO THE SOVIET UNION TO DO WHATEVER IT WANTS".

5. CHINA. TO QUESTIONS ON INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH CHINA DESAI SAID THAT HIS GOVT WANTED TO BE FRIENDLY WITH ALL COUNTRIES PROVIDED IT IS RECIPROCATED IN THE PROPER MANNER. "WE MUST HAVE RELATIONS BASED ON EQUALITY". ("TIMES OF INDIA" SAID DESAI MERELY REPEATED THE REMARK THAT THERE COULD BE NO SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ANY PARTICULAR COUNTRY.)

6. MIDDLE EAST. ON INDIA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEMS, HE SAID THAT HIS GOVT WOULD DETERMINE ITS ATTITUDE ON SEEING WHO WAS RIGHT AND WHO WAS WRONG. "WE WILL SUPPORT WHOEVER IS RIGHT AND NOT WHOEVER IS WRONG". AS FOR ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, DESAI REPORTEDLY SAID THAT INDIA HAD DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH MANY COUNTRIES AND IT COULD NOT GO INCREASING ITS EXPENDITURE
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR ENERGY, PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE04311
Document Source: CORE
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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ISecure: 1
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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